

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for communication employing a plurality of gatekeepers, the method
2 comprising the steps of:
3 (a) receiving at a first gatekeeper a request for information;
4 (b) determining whether the information is known by the first gatekeeper;
5 (c) if the information is not known by the first gatekeeper, sending the request via
6 a gatekeeper-level path to a second gatekeeper; and
7 (d) receiving from the second gatekeeper, via the gatekeeper-level path, the
8 requested information.

9 The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

- 10 (e) storing the received information.

11 The method of claim 1, wherein said sending the request includes the steps of:

- 12 (i) determining the next gatekeeper in the gatekeeper-level path to the
13 requested information.

14 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the information includes an application address.

15 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the information includes resource information.

16 6. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

- 17 (f) sending the received information to a requesting entity.

18 7. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

- 19 (f) attempting to connect to a called entity using information contained in the
20 information.

21 8. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:

- 22 (e) determining whether a hop-count field has been set to zero; and

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cont.

3 (f) if the hop-count field has been set to zero, dropping the received information.

1 9. The method of claim 3, where the first gatekeeper is an inter-zone gatekeeper.

1 10. The method of claim 3, where the first gatekeeper is an inter-domain gatekeeper.

1 11. An apparatus for communication, the apparatus comprising:

- 2 (a) a processor;
- 3 (b) a memory coupled to said processor, said memory storing instructions adapted
- 4 to be executed by said processor, the instructions comprising:
- 5 (i) receiving at a first gatekeeper a request for information;
- 6 (ii) determining whether the information is known by the first gatekeeper;
- 7 (iii) if the information is not known by the first gatekeeper, sending the
- 8 request via a gatekeeper-level path to a second gatekeeper; and
- 9 (iv) receiving from the second gatekeeper, via the gatekeeper-level path,
- 10 the requested information.

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cont.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11, said memory storing further instructions adapted to be run

2 on said processor, said further instructions comprising:

3 (v) storing the received information.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein sending the request includes the step of

2 determining the next gatekeeper in the gatekeeper-level path to the requested

3 information.

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cont.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the information includes an application address.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the information includes resource information.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 12, said memory storing further instructions adapted to be run

2 on said processor, said further instructions comprising:

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cont.

3 (vi) sending the received information to a requesting entity.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 12, said memory storing further instructions adapted to be run
2 on said processor, said further instructions comprising:

3 (vi) attempting to connect to a called entity using information contained in
the information.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 13, said memory storing further instructions adapted to be run
2 on said processor, said further instructions comprising:

3 (v) determining whether a hop-count field has been set to zero; and

4 (vi) if the hop-count field has been set to zero, dropping the received
5 information.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 13, where the first gatekeeper is an inter-zone gatekeeper.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 13, where the first gatekeeper is an inter-domain gatekeeper.

1 21. A medium for communication, the communication using a plurality of gatekeepers,
2 said medium storing instructions adapted to be executed by a processor, the
3 instructions comprising the steps of:

4 (a) receiving at a first gatekeeper a request for information;

5 (b) determining whether the information is known by the first gatekeeper;

6 (c) if the information is not known by the first gatekeeper, sending the request via
7 a gatekeeper-level path to a second gatekeeper; and

8 (d) receiving from the second gatekeeper, via the gatekeeper-level path, the
9 requested information.

1 22. The medium of claim 21, storing further information adapted to be executed by a
2 processor, the further information comprising:

3 (e) storing the received information.

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23. The medium of claim 21, wherein said sending the request includes the steps of:
(i) determining the next gatekeeper in the gatekeeper-level path to the
~~requested information.~~

24. The medium of claim 21, wherein the information includes an application address.

25. The medium of claim 21, wherein the information includes resource information.

26. The medium of claim 22, storing further information adapted to be executed by a processor, the further information comprising:
(f) sending the received information to a requesting entity.

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27. The medium of claim 22, storing further information adapted to be executed by a processor, the further information comprising:
(f) attempting to connect to a called entity using information contained in the information.

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28. The medium of claim 23, storing further information adapted to be executed by a processor, the further information comprising:
(e) determining whether a hop-count field has been set to zero; and
(f) if the hop-count field has been set to zero, dropping the received information.

29. The medium of claim 23, where the first gatekeeper is an inter-zone gatekeeper.

30. The medium of claim 23, where the first gatekeeper is an inter-domain gatekeeper.